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LANCASTER, S. C.

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MEANS TRIAL IS NOW NEARING ITS END AT CONCORD

Wife of Defendant on Stand Shows How Wound Might Have Been Made.

GASTON MEANS TESTIFIES

His Version of Tragedy is That Mrs. King Picked Up Pistol from the Tree and It Was Accidentally Discharged.

Concord, N. C., Dec. 14.—Evidence in the case of Gaston B. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, was almost completed when court adjourned Tuesday at the end of the 16th day of the trial. The defense had rested its case with the right to call two witnesses who could not be on hand and the state had only a few more witnesses in rebuttal.

Mrs. Julie Means, wife of the defendant, and Capt. W. A. Jones, pistol expert of the New York city police, were the principal witnesses. The former appeared for the defense and demonstrated to the jury how she could inflict upon herself a wound similar to that which caused Mrs. King's death. Captain Jones testified for the state and gave it as his opinion that it would have been physically impossible for a person to self-inflict a wound such as killed Mrs. King.

Over vigorous protest and an exception to the court's ruling by the defense, Captain Jones was allowed to fire in court the pistol with which Mrs. King was shot to demonstrate to the jury that the firing of the gun left no smoke "smudge" on the hand such as the defense claimed was found on Mrs. King's hand. The officer detailed various experiments he had conducted in firing a pistol at animal skin, hair and in a calf's head. When held as close as six inches to the calf's head, the pistol discharge burned the hair and powder strains were visible when the revolver was fired at a distance as great as 16 inches.

Mrs. Means was entirely at ease when on the witness stand and answered questions directly and distinctly. She handled without tremor the pistol from which the fatal shot was fired and showed the jury how she could discharge the weapon when holding it at arms length to one side of her.

Defendant's Version of Tragedy.

Concord, Dec. 13.—With deliberation and calmness, Gaston Bullock Means related in descriptive detail to the jury in Cabarrus county superior court Friday his version of how Mrs. Maude A. King met her death at Blackwelder spring, near Concord, on the evening of August 29, last. He was testifying in his own defense during the closing hours of the eleventh day of his trial on charge of the murder of Mrs. King. It was past 4 o'clock and he had been under direct examination nearly five hours following about six hours the day before. His direct examination closed and cross-examination began within a few minutes after he had pictured the tragedy to the jury.

The target shooting party had arrived at Blackwelder spring. All had alighted from the automobile; the chauffeur had taken it "up the road out of the way." Capt. W. S. Bingham, with shotgun in hand, and Afton Means, brother of the defendant, with rifle in hand, had gone some distance into the calm dusk down the road looking for rabbits. Only Gaston Means and Mrs. King were left on the hillside that slopes down to the spring located in a horseshoe-shaped opening projecting into the dense forest growth, according to the evidence. He had her .25-caliber automatic Colt pistol in his hand. She had handed it to him but a few moments before and he had loaded it for her. They walked toward the spring. Something was said about getting a drink of water. She declined to drink because she

NATIONAL ARMY CAMPS HAVE COST \$150,000,000

They Range in Population From 300 to 47,000—All Are Comfortably Housed.

The South Carolina Council of Defense has been authorized to give out the following information concerning training camps:

The beginning of winter finds the work of training going on at full blast in a hundred camps and stations.

Not far from half of the total number of men training are encamped in the big national army cantonments. In these the United States has 16 new cities, each as large as Sacramento or New Britain, or Dayton or Macon.

Sixteen camps, nearly as big as the cantonments, but not built so durably, are housing the National Guard divisions.

Two hundred and fifty thousand men have joined the regulars since the war broke out. There are 17 regular army stations and camps being used for the training of these recruits.

Seventeen stations are engaged in training men for the navy, and marines are being turned out in three more.

Not all the aviation fields have been finished, but in a dozen of them cool headed young men are being taught to fight in the air.

Nine camps have just rounded off the second increment of officers for the reserve corps.

Five medical camps are in operation, and three camps for engineers. All of the larger camps have been built in the last six months. The biggest of them, the national army cantonments, were built in three months at a total cost of \$150,000,000. Only a little over twice as much was required to build the Panama Canal—and that took ten years.

Something between six hundred and seven hundred millions of feet of lumber went into the national army cantonments. The figure for all the army camps is about one billion feet.

In population the camps range from 300 to 47,000. The men in a flying camp may know one another as men know one another in a small college. One of the larger cantonments, on the other hand, contains more men than can be crowded into the Polo Grounds or Comiskey Park.

A good average crowd for a world's series game is 30,000. Such a crowd is enough to swamp a half a crowd of the national army cantonments would make a crowd half again as large.

Living conditions in the camps may not be quite to the top of the high American standard. But it can safely be said that no large army of soldiers was ever housed so comfortably before. There will be no freezing this winter. Four of the cantonments situated farthest north have steam heat. The rest have to put up with hot air systems. But an American army spent a winter at Valley Forge once without even a hot air system.

SUBMARINE TOLL IS SHOWING AN INCREASE

Losses of Previous Week Amount to Sixteen Large and One Small Ship.

London, Dec. 13.—A slight increase in loss of British merchantmen by mine or submarine in the past week is noted in the admiralty statement. Fourteen vessels of more than 1,600 tons were sunk, as well as seven under that tonnage.

The losses of unarmored merchantmen to British shipping by mine or submarine the previous week comprised 16 merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over and one under that tonnage.

Light Italian Losses.

Rome, Dec. 13.—Italian shipping losses by mine or submarine for the week ending December 8 were one steamer of more than 1,500 tons, one steamer of less than 1,500 tons and three small sailing vessels. One steamer damaged by a torpedo was

HEAVY SNOW HELPS HALT THE AUSTRO-GERMANS IN ITALY

Strong Teuton Offensive on West Front Nets Only Slight Gain.

BYNG HOLDS HIS GROUND

General Allenby Has Taken Over Control of Jerusalem and the Populace Gets Him Cordially—Cuba Declares War.

The Germans, following their heavy artillery preparations of recent days, have attempted to drive a wedge into the British line west of Cambrai, but although they used numerically superior forces, their effort brought them only a minor gain.

The attack, launched between Bullecourt and Queant, was similar to that adopted by Crown Prince Rupprecht's troops when they pierced General Byng's front southwest of Cambrai nearly two weeks ago and caused a retirement of the British on the salient General Byng previously had driven toward Cambrai. The British held tenaciously to their ground, except at one point, where the enemy penetrated a front line position.

As in their previous attempt to wreck the Cambrai salient, the Germans lost heavily, the British mowing them down with machine gun and rifle fire in the fighting, which lasted from dawn until 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Notwithstanding their failure, the Germans are keeping up an intensive bombardment of British and French positions all along the western front and daily are receiving additional reinforcements in men and guns from the eastern theater.

Snow is falling heavily in the mountains along the northern Italian front, and optimism prevails among the Italians that this will aid them definitely in holding the Austro-Germans back from the Italian plain. Amid the first flurries of the storm on Tuesday the enemy resumed his attack among the hills and was rewarded by the capture of several positions. Later, however, the Italians in a counter-attack regained their lost terrain, after which the artillery duels were resumed, but with less strength than had previously been shown.

The Cossacks, under General Kaledines, and the Bolshevik forces are reported to have met in at least two fights, with the counter-revolutionists the victors in both. The engagements occurred at Moheliv and at Tamanovka, and the Bolshevik losses are declared to have been heavy.

General Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine, has entered Jerusalem and taken over control of the Holy City. The populace greeted the British commander cordially. In a proclamation, he told the inhabitants that all sacred buildings and holy places would be protected and maintained. Meanwhile, the British army continues its successful operations in Palestine, having captured several additional positions from the Turks.

Twenty-one British merchantmen were sunk by mines or submarines last week, as against 17 the previous week.

A resolution declaring that a state of war exists between Austria-Hungary and Cuba has been passed by the Cuban house of representatives.

May Be Executed.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Congressman Tinkham, by firing an Italian gun at the Austrian positions, has taken on the status of a non-combatant attacking troops, and according to the rules of war, laid himself liable to execution by the Austrians should he by any chance fall into their hands. Under the law of war, a civilian may never engage in hostilities.

The fact that war has been declared does not alter the situation and any American found engaging in hostilities regardless of his position in civil life, is regarded as a traitor.

FIRST SURVIVOR'S STORY OF TRAGEDY HALIFAX HARBOR

Lieut. Richards Tells of Sinking of American Destroyer, the Jacob Jones.

TORPEDO SEEN 4:20 P. M.

Only Two Boats and Three Rafts Floated Clear of the Wreck and After 17 Hours Men Were Picked Up.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The first survivor's story of the sinking of the American destroyer Jacob Jones, as told by Lieut. J. K. Richards, was made public by the navy department. It shows that only two small boats and three life rafts floated clear of the wreck. The men on the sea were picked up after seventeen hours of exposure.

An official summary of the lieutenant's report follows:

"Lieut. Richards said the destroyer was proceeding toward port, after holding target practice, when at 4:20 p. m. a torpedo was sighted by the lookout. The commanding officer, stationed on the bridge ordered the rudder hard right and engines full steam ahead. The torpedo struck the ship on the starboard side, abreast of the torpedo tube No. 3. This tube with torpedoes was blown 200 feet in air. The radio was wrecked and the mainmast brought down.

No Submarine Sighted.

"Guns were manned immediately but no submarine was sighted and the vessel began to settle by the stern. The captain gave the order to abandon ship. What boats could be gotten out capsized. The motor boat could not be gotten out. A wherry and motor dory managed to escape safely. Three life rafts floated clear. The vessel sank at 4:29 p. m. Depth charges aboard exploded, apparently blowing off the stern of the ship.

"No survivors, except those on the boats and life rafts, were found after a thorough search. Lieut. Richards said. After seventeen hours in the water the men on the rafts were picked up by a British ship.

"The submarine, which was seen after the Jacob Jones sank, appeared to be about 150 feet in length, with three-inch guns forward and two periscopes."

BUD BIGGS SAYS—

"Well, Mr. Editor, as I remarked before, there was some terrible runnin'." said Bud Biggs as he came into our gold-lined sanctum and seated himself on the marble-top desk. "And the worst of it is they're still runnin'."

Every body got elected, Mr. Editor, except the candidates for mayor and they're runnin' the race over while the runnin' is good. The first round was a draw, Mr. Editor, but there's goin' to be somethin' doing when the umpire starts the game next Tuesday, and take it from me, somebody's goin' to be elected. This is the life, Mr. Editor, and it's about all the fun you get out of bein' mayor, Mr. Editor. After winnin' the bout it's mostly cussin' and criticism and worry. There's generally bills to pay often and regularly and generally there's little of the wherewithal to pay them, and every time the mayor does anything, there's always somebody to say it order be done some other way. It's a great job, Mr. Editor, this bein' mayor, but it's a job with little honor, little pay, no thanks, and as I remarked before mostly and generally cussin'. But somebody's got to be mayor, Mr. Editor, it's one o' them necessary evils—just like traffic cops and whiskers—you gotta have 'em."

—and Bud went out to buy a War Savings Stamp, remarking that Uncle Sam needs the money to clothe and feed the fighters.

SNOWFALL HERE WAS ABOUT FOUR INCHES

Other Sections of the South Had All the Way to Ten Inches.

The snowfall in Lancaster Tuesday night was about four inches, probably less. It began snowing about eight o'clock and when the folk looked out next morning the ground was nicely covered. In North Carolina and Virginia, the snowfall ranged up to ten inches, being heavy near the coast. Newport News had the heaviest precipitation in 19 years, according to unofficial accounts, a 10-inch fall accompanying severe cold weather and high winds, virtually tying up shipping at the Hampton Roads port. Roanoke reported a fall of eight inches. Danville reported ten inches, the heaviest fall in several years.

In North Carolina also the snowfall was heaviest near the coast. Raleigh reported seven inches, while in the mountain city of Asheville the depth was only four inches.

Columbia was barely covered under an inch of snow, but in the northern and western sections of South Carolina from three to four inches of snow was reported.

From northeastern Georgia came reports of snow to a depth of three inches.

WRITES UP LANCASTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Southern Telephone News Carries Picture of New Switchboard and Story About Exchange.

The Southern Telephone News, published in Atlanta, carries a "write-up" of the Lancaster Telephone company, accompanied by a picture of the new switchboard recently installed, in its December issue. "The Lancaster Telephone company, Lancaster, S. C., one of the strongest connecting companies in South Carolina," says the Telephone News, "recently completed the installation of a new common battery telephone system."

"Preparations had been under way for some months by General Manager Thomasson and his corps of assistants in working out the details of this installation."

Special Agent Jamison, of the chief engineer's office, Atlanta, Ga., assisted Mr. Thomasson in his plans for the installation of the new equipment and the new telephone system.

"The present capacity of the new switchboard is 359 local and sixty rural and toll line connections. A new telephone directory is now being prepared and will be ready for distribution within a few days. The new system was installed at an outlay of approximately \$7,500 and J. T. Thomasson, proprietor, deserves great credit for the patience and perseverance with which he has labored to complete a very expensive and tedious task—full of technical mechanical difficulties, aggravated often by destructive weather conditions and other hindrances."

"Miss Griffin, of Charlotte and Miss Rudisell, of Lincolnton, expert Bell company operators, came down and remained for several days, instructing the operators in handling the new switchboard."

"Altogether the Lancaster Telephone company employs quite a large force and the system is growing rapidly. Besides the proprietor, Mr. Thomasson, the force consists of Walter P. Davis, bookkeeper and collector; Robt. Hair, plant foreman; Lee Ellis, foreman of construction, assisted by Arthur Blackmon and W. E. Rorie; Jim Sadler, colored, lineman. The operating force is Miss Shadie Cottingham, chief operator, and Misses Annie Belle Carnes, Reta Parks, Ida Cauthen and Estelle Carnes, assistants; Miss Irene Todd, night operator."

"The new switchboard is installed in the basement of the Coffey house, which has been fitted up for a central office with all the generating apparatus, accommodations for the operators, two long distance booths, etc."

"The Lancaster Telephone company was organized in 1898 and Mr. Thomasson did practically all the construction and installation work himself and has been connected with the company continuously since that time. A few months ago he became sole proprietor."

NEW ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY TO SELECT MAYOR

Tie-Vote Between Chas. D. Jones and R. S. Stewart Makes This Necessary.

VOTE ONLY FOR MAYOR.

Board of Aldermen Met Yesterday and Named Next Tuesday as Day for Second Election for Chief Executive.

Next Tuesday, December 18, has been decided upon by the board of aldermen for the second election to select a mayor of the town of Lancaster, the election on last Tuesday having resulted in a tie vote. The board of aldermen was in session yesterday to receive the returns from the election and to order the second election.

The coming election will be conducted under the same regulations as the regular election. The polls will open at eight o'clock and close at four. The voting booth will be at the guard house in the fire station. The tie-vote of Tuesday between Charles D. Jones, incumbent, and R. S. Stewart, has been the subject of much comment for the past two days and the friends of the candidates have been quite active since the tie was announced Tuesday night.

The ordinance passed by the aldermen yesterday ordering the second election follows:

Whereas, the election for mayor, held on December 11th, 1917, resulted in a tie-vote, as shown by the returns of the managers thereof.

Be it ordained by the mayor and aldermen of the town of Lancaster in council assembled:

Section 1. That a second election for mayor to serve for a period of two years commencing the first day of January, 1918, shall be held at the guard house in said town on Tuesday, December 18th, 1917. The polls to be opened at eight o'clock a. m. and to be closed at four o'clock p. m.

Section 2. That W. D. Robinson, A. J. Roddey and Latta Hood be and they are hereby appointed managers of said election and directed and required to conduct the same in accordance with the requirements of law.

Done and ratified in council assembled this 13th day of December, 1917.

Chas. D. Jones,

Mayor.

E. C. Secrest,

Clerk and Treasurer.

PATRONS' MEETING TO BE HELD AT SCHOOLS

New Agricultural Instructor Will Meet Patrons of Five Schools Next Week.

Patrons' meetings will be held at the five schools composing the group to have an agricultural course next week. The meetings will be attended by the agricultural instructor, Mr. Eargle, by Mr. Lingle and Mr. Graeber, and will be held as follows:

Heath Springs, 10 a. m., Wednesday, December 19.

Oakhurst, 2 p. m., same day.

Elgin, 10 a. m., Thursday, December 20.

Rich Hill, 2 p. m., same day.

Antioch, 10 a. m., Friday, December 21.

Messrs. Eargle, Lingle and Graeber will outline the work to be taken up and the patrons of the schools are urged to attend.

OPPOSES TEACHING OF LATIN IN S. C. SCHOOLS

Columbia, Dec. 13.—That an examination on the beginners' Latin book and the first book of Caesar required next May of every teacher in the state would put 200 of them out of business is the assertion of W. H. Hand, state high school inspector, in a statement which says that the practice of teaching Latin in the crowded schools of South Carolina which have small teaching forces, is criminal.